

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2649

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2003

ACCESS OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES IN EU MARKET

PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that a strong lobby of European Union in the grab of Euro Norm's application of standards in India are attempting to minimise the access of our agricultural commodities and other value added products in European Markets on the alibi of pesticide percentage etc.;
- (b) whether such track on Euro shall endanger our future exports of sugar, wheat, marine products, tea and other commodities;
- (c) whether India accepts WHO codes standard and would never succumb to such pressures of European Union or any group of European lobby for Euro Norms etc.; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

- (a) & (b): The Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) standards of European Union (EU) including the limits of pesticide residue apply to all countries including India. India, like other exporting countries will be required to meet the EU prescribed standards for their exports to EU.
- (c) & (d): India as a member of World Health Organisation (WHO) and Codex Alimentarius Commission accepts internationally recognised standards. Issues of higher SPS standards are regularly monitored and taken up with the European Union and EU member countries in order to ensure that such standards do not become market access barriers for India's exports to EU countries.